

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Tom Gulbransen
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: August 19, 2020
TIME: 9:30 am – 11:22 am
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 202.28 issued on March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meeting Law, the Suffolk County Planning Commission Meeting will be held electronically via ZOOM until June 6, 2020. Instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person, members of the public may Listen to or log into the video conference. The public was encouraged to send in their statements for the public portion to the address above or email to Planning@suffolkcountyny.gov . The Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Suffolk County Planning Commission website.

PRESENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair (by phone)
Rob Carpenter Jr.
Frank De Rubeis
Hon. Kara Hahn
Constance Kepert
Mary Ann Spencer
Andrea Spilka
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

None

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation

Christina DeLisi, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Presiding Officer

Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide, Hon. Hahn, District 5

The following was read into the record at the start of the meeting:

This is the regularly scheduled August 19, 2020 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record; we do have a quorum present.

The notice of the meeting followed the Open Meetings Law as amended by Executive Order 202.1 and updated by Executive Order 202.55.1 extending the suspensions and conditions of the OML (open meetings law) until September 4, 2020 allowing meetings to take place telephonically or through other similar services. In this instance, we will be using ZOOM and will be recording the entirety of the meeting.

Additionally, we will be following the voting protocol used by the Suffolk County Legislature at its March 17th meeting. All voting on Board Actions and Resolutions will be done via a roll call and we ask that all Board Members clearly state their name when making a motion and clearly state their vote when their name is called.

Roll call taken:

Minutes:

CEQ Staff noted that the staff has been working on the minutes from the past meetings and that the minutes should be available in the near future for the CEQ's review.

Correspondence:

Mr. Corral noted that CEQ received one correspondence via email just before the cancelled July CEQ meeting. The correspondence was from a resident John Rather. Mr. Rather was inquiring about the Indian Island wetlands restoration project. Mr. Rather noted that the CEQ had reviewed this project in 2014 and that he heard that there were revisions to the project and asked if the project was going to be reviewed again by the CEQ. CEQ staff noted that they contacted the project sponsors on the status of the project. The project sponsors confirmed that they are in the engineering stages of the project but have not finalized plans. CEQ informed the project sponsor that if the new plans are subsequently different from what was reviewed by the CEQ in 2014 the project would be required to be reviewed by the CEQ.

Mr. Gulbransen noted that he would send a letter to Mr. Rather acknowledging receipt of his correspondence. The letter would also state that the project is being reconsidered and if it is substantively different from what was previously reviewed that the project would be required to be reviewed again by the CEQ.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Housing agreements:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, noted that there was one housing vacancy located in Huntington at West Hills County Park which has just been filled. Mr. Martin noted that the vacancy was at one of the County's larger historic homes. Mr. Martin noted that the house has recently been rented and will be occupied again at October 1, 2021. It was noted that the house was in good condition and only minor interior work is needed before the tenant can move in.

Custodial agreements:

Mr. Martin noted that he had nothing new to report on the custodial agreements.

After the custodial agreement portion of the Historic Trust Docket, Mr. Martin provided the CEQ with initial information on a roof replacement project that has commenced at the Normandy Manor property. It was noted that the Normandy Manor property is eligible for the historic registry and is located directly adjacent to the main Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum complex. It was also noted that the back of the Normandy Manor building's slate roof has been removed but that the slate roof is still present on the front and north sides of the building. Mr. Martin also noted that the project is currently stopped but as planned the project would result in the replacement of the slate roof with a different type of material.

The CEQ/Historic Trust expressed concern over the removal of the slate roof from the Normandy Manor building and its potential replacement with a different type of roofing material.

After the initial information provided by Mr. Martin and the related CEQ discussion, Mr. Gulbransen made a motion authorizing the Chair of the CEQ to send a letter to the Suffolk County Parks Commissioner and the Suffolk County Department of Public Works Commissioner requesting that the Suffolk County Parks Commissioner and a representative from the Suffolk County Department of Public Works provide the CEQ with a briefing regarding the roof replacement project at Normandy Manor at the next CEQ meeting before any work restarts at the site. Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Land for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Carman Property, Town of Riverhead

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Melissa Kangas, Planner, with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. The project involves the acquisition of land by Suffolk County under the New County Drinking Water Protection – For Open Space Preservation Purposes known as the Carman Property, Town of Riverhead.

The property is located north of Sound Avenue and west of Penny's Road in the Hamlet of Riverhead, Town of Riverhead (SCTM# 0600 01900 0100 003000). The project involves the dedication of the property to the Suffolk County Parks Department in order to ensure it remains in open space for passive recreational use.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 23, 2020 and July 21, 2020

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 23, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 21, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

Other Business:

None

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned